Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is available as green fuel in Delhi and also at Mumbai and Baroda. Action for amendment in Motor Vehicles Act, LPG Control Order and Explosive Rules is under way to enable use of LPG in automobiles.

LPG Distribution in Rural Areas

1778. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "LPG Distributorship for Rural areas on anvil" which appeared in the Business Times Bureau on 15th July, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to undertake awareness programme in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the people to the proposal and other relevant details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to areas, while formulating the LPG Plan 1996—98, it was distributorships in the following areas also:

(i) Wherever feasible, all towns with a population of 5,000 and above, including villages within 15 Kms. Radius, to make a viable distributorship.

(ii) Wherever feasible, all villages with a population of 10,000 and above, including the villages within 15 Kms. Radius, to make a viable distributorship.

(iii) Wherever feasible, rural areas within 15 KMs radius of towns with a population of one lakh and above.

Accordingly, a total of 1702 distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan for 1996—98. Of these, 401 are for only rural areas only. 1285 for urban/rural areas and 16 for urban areas.

Above distributorships are being advertised currently inviting applications from eligible candidates and selections are to be made by the Dealer Selection Boards on the basis of interview of eligible candidates, who will be responsible to set up distributorships, within specified period.

(c) and (d) Oil Industry is conducting several programmes including oil conservation week every year to create awareness among the masses about oil conservation. Under this programme the following activities are conducted to bring awareness in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products:

(a) Seminars in Schools/Colleges
(b) Seminars with consumer associations
(c) Painting/Debate/Essay Competitions in School/Colleges
(d) Wide Spread messages through TV/Radio
(e) Display of Banners/Hoardings
(f) Distributions of safety/conservation Literature/Leaflets, etc.
(g) Participation in Kisan Melas and setting up demonstration centres in rural areas.

Customers/public have appreciated the efforts of the industry in organising various conservation activities in order to promote/propagate awareness and need for conservation of petroleum products.

Supply of Bitumen to Gujarat

1779. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of bitumen to Gujarat is tied up with Koyali Refinery;

(b) whether the supply is as per their demand;